




## MEMO

**TO:** Prevention Partnership Providers and  
Local Public Health Units

**FROM:** Abbi Berg, MPH   
Vaccines for Children Manager

**RE:** 2016 - 2017 State-Supplied Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

**DATE:** August 22, 2016

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program is supplying seasonal influenza vaccine for the 2016 - 2017 season to private providers for use in only those children who are **Vaccines for Children (VFC) eligible**. This includes children aged 18 years and younger who are either Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, uninsured, or underinsured. Universal local public health units (LPHUs) can administer state-supplied influenza vaccine to children who are privately insured, only if they pre-booked vaccine to be administered to privately-insured children.

**Flumist® Not Recommended by ACIP:**

On June 22, 2016, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted that live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as the "nasal spray" flu vaccine or Flumist®, should not be used during the 2016-2017 flu season. Flumist® will not be distributed for use in VFC eligible children for this influenza flu season. All Flumist® doses that were pre-booked by providers will automatically be replaced with inactivated injectable vaccine (IIV).

Brand choice may not be able to be honored in all situations, so providers may receive a variety of IIV brands to replace their pre-booked LAIV. Providers are encouraged to pay close attention to the age indications for the various types of influenza vaccine. For your reference, attached is the 2016 - 2017 Influenza Vaccine Dosage Chart. This chart is also available on the NDDoH Immunization Program website at

[www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Documents/Providers/Forms/InfluenzaDosage.pdf](http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Documents/Providers/Forms/InfluenzaDosage.pdf)

**Distribution:**

State-supplied influenza vaccine will be distributed by McKesson. Vaccine will be distributed in multiple shipments this fall. Providers can expect their first shipments of state-supplied influenza vaccine in very late August or early September. An automated email will be sent out to the primary and secondary vaccine contacts when an influenza vaccine order has been placed by NDDoH on behalf of that particular provider based on their prebook submitted this past spring. Additional influenza vaccine cannot be

ordered by providers until all influenza vaccine allocations have been distributed. Providers will be notified when ordering is available.

**Borrowing:**

For seasonal influenza vaccine, providers may use private stock seasonal influenza vaccine to vaccinate VFC eligible children if VFC seasonal influenza stock is not yet available. Those private stock doses used on VFC eligible children can later be replaced when VFC stock become available. However, VFC stock is not always guaranteed, and providers run the risk of not having private doses repaid.

**Two-Dose Recommendation for Children ages 6 months – 8 years:**

- Children aged 6 months through 8 years receiving influenza vaccine for the first time require two doses, at least four weeks apart.
- For the 2016 - 2017 influenza season, the recommendations have not changed since the previous influenza season. For any child who has received two or more doses of influenza vaccine prior to July 1, 2016, only one dose is recommended for this influenza season. Consideration of IIV vs LAIV or trivalent vs quadrivalent is unnecessary. The number of doses given prior to July 1, 2016 is the only consideration necessary.
- **Recommendations for children for the 2016 - 2017 influenza season can be found on the enclosed influenza vaccine algorithm.**

**Timing of Vaccination:**

The CDC recommends that seasonal influenza vaccine be administered to all age groups as soon as it becomes available. Antibody to seasonal inactivated influenza vaccine declines in the months following vaccination. However, antibody level at a point several months after vaccination does not necessarily correlate with clinical vaccine effectiveness. There are no studies that compare vaccine effectiveness according to the month when the vaccination was given.

**Important reminders about influenza vaccination:**

- The 2016 - 2017 trivalent vaccine contains strains: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like, A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus. The quadrivalent vaccine contains one additional B/Phuket/3073/2013 strain.
- When entering influenza vaccines into your electronic medical record and/or into the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS), it is important to make sure you are entering the correct type of influenza vaccine. Please see the attached NDIIS flu vaccine abbreviation guide. It is also available at [www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Forms.htm](http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Providers/Forms.htm)
- The minimum interval between doses of either injectable or live vaccines is four weeks.
- Intradermal influenza vaccine is licensed for those 18 – 64 years of age.
- High dose influenza vaccine is licensed for individuals over 65 years of age.

**Vaccine Information Statements:**

The 2016 - 2017 Influenza Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are available from the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/index.html>. Providers are responsible for printing and supplying their own VISs. The National Childhood Vaccine Injury

Compensation Act of 1986 requires that immunization providers provide a copy of the applicable VIS for each vaccine administered. The VISs have not changed from the 2015 – 2016 influenza season, so if providers have stock from the last influenza season they may continue to use them.

**New Influenza Posters:**

NDDoH has created new influenza vaccine posters that are now available for order. Providers should visit the following website to see a preview of the poster and to order copies: [www.ndflu.com/Education/Influenza/FluOrder.aspx](http://www.ndflu.com/Education/Influenza/FluOrder.aspx)

Please feel free to contact the NDDoH Immunization Program with any questions or concerns at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

Enc.